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LISKEARD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR THE YEAR, 1944.

The Chairman and Members of the Liskeard Rural District Council,
Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report on the Health of the Rural District of Liskeard for the year, 1944.

Water Supply.

Although there was no general water shortage in the District, there were local shortages at Polruan and Polperro. In the case of Polruan, everything possible was done to ensure a fair distribution of the limited supply but in spite of this, the high levels were inadequately catered for. As I have said in previous reports, the only practical way of providing an adequate supply to this town-ship is to bring the water through long pipe lines from the moorlands in the Northern parts of the area. Such a scheme is now being considered in its preliminary stages and it is hoped that it will include a main to Polruan with branch mains to many other Villages, at present inadequately supplied, including Bodinnick, Lanrcath, Pelynt, Lerryn, East Taphouse, Dobwalls, etc.

In the case of the water shortage at Polperro this was found to be due to a serious water wastage at a Small-Holding at a comparatively low level. This was remedied without delay and in addition, a new spring was piped to the reservoir. Samples of the water were analysed chemically and bacteriologically and were found satisfactory.

Sewers.

The existing sewerage works were maintained during the year. No new Sewers were provided although some defective branches were renewed entirely.

Housing.

During 1944 the eight Agricultural Workers Cottages under the Government's wartime scheme were completed. The accommodation and convenience provided are very good although the external elevation leaves much to be desired. The woodwork and some of the fittings used fall short of prewar standard but that was to be expected. Nevertheless eight good homes have been provided which will last for generations to come.

The inspection of private cottages has been continued during the year but owing to great shortage of labour, attention has been paid to the more serious defects. A number of these defects have been remedied but many works were still outstanding at the end of 1944. A limited number of reconstructional work under the Housing Rural Workers Act has been carried out during the year in spite of difficulties of labour and material. Two schemes were completed.

Milk Production.

Inspections have been continued of those farm premises where milk is being produced. Numbers of cowsheds and dairies have been improved almost beyond recognition and make their cleansing much easier and simpler.

Good though it is to note the improved standards to which these premises are being brought, it must not be forgotten that it is personal hygiene which has the greatest bearing on clean milk production. Even with the most modern buildings and utensils, failure to observe strict cleanliness in all stages of milk production will have a very serious effect on the quality of the milk.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LISKEARD
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer of Health:- Dr. E.S. Toogood, Golden Bank,
Liskeard.

- The following Medical Practitioners act as part-time District Medical Officers and/or Public Vaccinators.

Dr. A.G. Aitken.....Callington.
Dr. M. Cooper.....Looe.
Dr. W.H. King.....Fowey.
Dr. A. Mc Cloy.....Polperro.
Dr. B. B. Metcalfe.....Liskeard.
Dr. O.R. Smale.....Pensilva.

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Sanitary Inspector. |) | |
| Meat & Food Inspector. |) | Mr. G. Rogers. M.R.S.I. |
| Milk & Dairy Inspector. |) | M.S.I.A. Liskeard. |
| Building Surveyor |) | |

Statistics and Social Conditions.

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Area of the District. | 104,851 acres. |
| Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population. | 14530 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1943 according to Rate Books. | 4850 |
| Rateable Value of the District. | 36997 |
| Sum represented by a Penny Rate. | 160 |

Social Conditions.

Agriculture and Dairy Farming are the chief industries carried on in the District. We have no industries in our Rural District which are prejudicial to health.

Vital Statistics.

| <u>Live Births.</u> | <u>TOTAL.</u> | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> |
|--|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| Legitimate. | 227 | 123 | 104 |
| Illegitimate. | 24 | 9 | 15 |
| Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population. | 17.27 | | |
| Birth-rate for England and Wales. | 17.6 | | |

| <u>Still Births.</u> | <u>TOTAL.</u> | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> |
|---|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| Legitimate. | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| Illegitimate. | 1 | - | 1 |
| Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births). | 23.43 | | |

| | | | |
|---|------|----|-----|
| <u>Deaths.</u> | 204 | 96 | 108 |
| Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population | 14 | | |
| Death-rate for England and Wales. | 11.6 | | |

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Puerperal Sepsis. Nil.

Other Puerperal Causes. Nil.

Death-rate of Infants under

One year of Age.

All infants per 1,000 Live Births. 35.85

Legitimate Infants per 1,000

Legitimate Live Births. 39.6

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000

Live Births. Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages). 26

Deaths from Measles(all ages). 1

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages). Nil.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age). Nil.

Debris from wreckage (mostly of a car)
Debris from wreckage (mostly of a car)
(1936)

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH.

| | <u>TOTAL.</u> | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> |
|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| Respiratory Tuberculosis. | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| Influenza. | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Measles. | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Cancer. | 26 | 8 | 18 |
| Diabetes. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Intracranial Vascular Lesions. | 28 | 12 | 16 |
| Heart Disease. | 69 | 28 | 41 |
| Other Circulatory Diseases. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Bronchitis. | 12 | 8 | 4 |
| Pneumonia. | 11 | 5 | 6 |
| Other Respiratory Diseases. | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum. | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Appendicitis. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Other Digestive Diseases. | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| Nephritis. | 12 | 8 | 4 |
| Premature Birth. | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Congenital Malformation. | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Suicide. | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Road Traffic Accidents. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Other Violence. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| All other Causes. | 18 | 12 | 6 |

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

(a) Medical:-

Medical Officer of Health - Dr. E.S. Toogood, Golden Bank,
Liskeard.

The following Medical Practitioners act as part-time District
Medical Officers and / or as Public Vaccinators:-

Dr. A.G. Aitken.....Callington.
Dr. M. Cooper.....Looe.
Dr. W.H. King.....Fowey.
Dr. A. Mc Cloy.....Polperro.
Dr. B.B. Metcalfe.....Liskeard.
Dr. O.R. Smale.....Pensilva.

Dr. E. Wordley of Plymouth, undertakes the pathological
examination of material submitted.

County Tuberculosis Officer:- Dr. Walker, County Hall, Truro.

(b) Others:-

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Sanitary Inspector. |) | |
| Meat & Food Inspector. |) | Mr. G. Rogers, M.R.S.I. |
| Milk & Dairy Inspector. |) | M.S.I.A. |
| Building Surveyor. |) | Liskeard. |

Public Analysts of Water:-


(a) Chemical:- Messrs. Benedict, Kitto & Sons, London.

(b) Bacteriological: Mr. Wm. Partridge, Holborn.

A. Laboratory Facilities.

No change has been made in the arrangements for the
examination and analysis of clinical material, water, milk
and foodstuffs.

Milk and pathological examinations are carried out by
Dr. E. Wordley, Plymouth. Foodstuffs by the County
Analyst.



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GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA. (continued).

B. Ambulance Facilities.

In spite of a very depleted membership owing to war service, the few remaining members of the St. John Ambulance Association have maintained a satisfactory and adequate Ambulance Service. All calls to non-infectious cases, accident and maternity cases have been expeditiously and cheerfully undertaken at all times of the day and night. Our very sincere thanks are due to the men and women who have undertaken this voluntary work. During 1944 the Ambulance was driven 5238 miles, and 218 patients were removed, 16 being accident cases.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

C. General and Maternity.

Local Nursing Associations provide Nurses who are Certified Midwives in co-operation with the Cornwall County Council. Practically the whole of the Rural District is covered by the work of these Local Associations. Membership of a Local Association costs only a small sum each year. I recommend very strongly all those in the Rural District who are not already members to approach either the Nurse or Local Secretary without delay. It is with pleasure that I record the very excellent work carried out by the District Nurses in the area.

Infectious.

The District Nurses are forbidden to undertake the Nursing of Infectious Diseases. When necessary, these are treated at the Isolation Hospital, Truro. Minor Infectious diseases are treated at the County Council's Hospital at Newquay, when necessary.

D. Clinic & Treatment Centres.

No new Clinic or Treatment Centres have been opened in the Rural District during 1944.

E. Hospitals.

PUBLIC:- The Public Assistance Hospital, situated in the Borough of Liskeard, receives cases from the Rural District of Liskeard and elsewhere.

VOLUNTARY:- The Passmore Edwards Cottage Hospital, also situated in the Borough of Liskeard, has been used extensively by the inhabitants of the Rural District. This Hospital contains 27 beds (12 General - 8 female and 4 male) 5 private wards, 3 emergency beds and 7 cots. 219 patients were treated during 1944 and there were 249 out-patients. 122 operations were carried out under anaesthetics.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.

There has been an increase in the number of Notifiable Infectious Diseases during the year. 250 cases were notified during 1944 compared with 146 for the previous year. As was the case last year, measles was the most prevalent (154 cases). Whooping Cough was also present (46 cases).

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES. (Other than Tuberculosis).

| <u>Disease.</u> | <u>Total Cases Notified.</u> | <u>Total Deaths.</u> |
|-----------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Typhoid Fever. | 1 | - |
| Scarlet Fever. | 15 | - |
| Whooping Cough. | 46 | - |
| Diphtheria. | 6 | - |
| Erysipelas. | 4 | - |
| Measles. | 154 | 1 |
| Pneumonia. | 24 | 11 |

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action had been taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, nor under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of Blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

TUBERCULOSIS.

No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the Milk Trade), nor under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925 (relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis).

New Cases and Mortality during 1944.

| <u>Age Periods.</u> | <u>New Cases.</u> | | | | <u>Deaths.</u> | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|
| | <u>Respiratory :</u> | | <u>Non-Respiratory.</u> | | <u>Respiratory :</u> | | <u>Non-Respiratory.</u> | |
| | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> |
| 0 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| 1 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| 5 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| 15 | ..1..... | ..2..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..1..... | ..... |
| 25 | ..1..... | ..2..... | ..... | ..1..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| 35 | ..3..... | ..2..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..1..... | ..... | ..... |
| 45 | ..... | ..1..... | ..... | ..... | ..1..... | ..1..... | ..... | ..... |
| 55 | ..1..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..1..... | ..... | ..... |
| 65 | ..1..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..1..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| and upwards. | 7 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 0 |

The County Tuberculosis Officer is always available for consultation with the doctor concerned. Pathological specimens are examined and a diagnostic X-Ray plant is in use at Tehidy Sanatorium. The County Tuberculosis Officer attends twice each month at Lamellion House, Liskeard, for a periodic survey of cases in the area.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant.
E.S. TOOGOOD. M.A.(Oxon).
M.R.C.S.
Medical Officer of Health.

Golden Bank,
Liskeard.

